LEONARD SALZEDO

BAILABLES

Opus 127

Oboe Consort

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AI EN 001

Leonard Salzedo

(1921-2000)

Leonard Salzedo, the most Spanish of British composers, was born in London in 1921. He began the violin at the age of six and started to compose when he was twelve.

He was awarded the Cobbett Prize (1942) after only two years as a student at the Royal College of Music (London) for his first string quartet: he would eventually compose ten. Again, during his studies, he was commissioned to write the score for a ballet, *The Fugitive* (1944), which was performed more than four hundred times by Ballet Rambert.

The most renowned of Salzedo's seventeen ballet scores, *The Witch Boy*, received its première in Amsterdam (1956). Since then, ballet companies around the world have given in excess of three thousand performances in more than thirty-three countries. *The Witch Boy* has featured on television in many of these including Germany, Japan and New Zealand.

From 1947 - 1950 Leonard Salzedo was a member of the London Philharmonic Orchestra. He then moved to the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (until 1966). Its illustrious conductor, Sir Thomas Beecham, gave the premières of two of Salzedo's compositions at the Royal Festival Hall. As well as playing violin in the orchestra, Leonard Salzedo became his assistant conductor. In 1964 he joined the London Soloists Ensemble and composed *Concerto Fervido* especially for it.

In 1967, Salzedo abandoned the violin to become Musical Director of Ballet Rambert (now the Rambert Dance Company), a post he held until 1972. The same year, he moved to Scottish Ballet as their Principal Conductor (-1974). He was later to become Music Director of London City Ballet (1982 -1986).

Thereafter, until his death in May 2000, Leonard Salzedo devoted himself almost entirely to prolific composition. Although performing continuously for many years, he composed more than 160 works including two symphonies.

The opening six bar fanfare of his *Divertimento for Three Trumpets and Three Trombones* (1959) was used by the BBC as the theme music for all Open University educational programmes broadcast on radio and television (1970s -1990s). He composed eighteen film scores including Hammer's *The Revenge of Frankenstein* (1959).

Leonard Salzedo was a wine connoisseur and member of the *Confrèrie des Chevaliers du Sacavin*, a Loire-based wine brotherhood with a London Chapter. For many years he was their *Chef des Beaux Arts* and wrote fanfares, which were performed at dinners and inductions.

Bailables

Opus 127

Oboe Consort

Oboe (with optional Musette), Oboe d'amore, Cor anglais, Bass Oboe

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Bailables means music that is suitable for dancing. *Rondeña* is a nocturnal Moorish street song. *Guajira* is a dance with a characteristic 3/4 - 6/8 rhythm. *Tonada* is a melody, typically sad or melancholic in character. *Fandango* is one of the oldest of the traditional Spanish dances and often uses a version of the Phrygian mode derived from one of the Arabic scales. I composed this work for Jennifer Paull in 1996.

Leonard Salzedo
1997

This work is recorded by The Amoris Consort
on the CD,
Ⅱ CC VI
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